

**Remarks**

**Rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada et al. (EP 0 882 719 [Harada et al '719] and Harada et al. (WO 98/57938)[Harada et al. '938]**

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada et al. '719 and Harada et al. '938. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested in view of the following remarks. The Examiner asserts on page 2 of the Office Action that the Applicants' previously claimed subject matter would have been obvious as the cited references teach that the compounds are effective for treating endothelin mediated disorders and the selection of a specific host in which to practice such treatment would have been a matter well within the purview of the skilled artisan. However, on page 3, first full paragraph, the Examiner quite accurately observes that the tested compounds, (not substantially different in scope to our claims) would not have been obvious where the companion animal is a dog. Applicants respectfully submit that this observation should properly be applicable to the full scope of the claimed subject matter since the substituents claimed herein are very closely related to the Examples X and Y of the clinical data. The Examiner is respectfully urged to reconsider the rejection of the broader claims as set forth elsewhere in the Office Action in the more favorable lights of his comments on the examples. Specifically, the other closely related mammals (cat and horse) set forth in these claims should reasonably be included in that recognition of unobviousness in view of the surprising comparative test results in dogs.

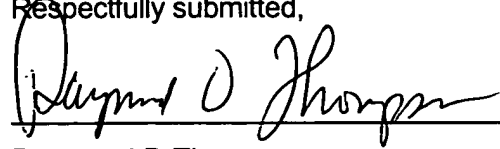
Independent Claims 1 and 10 are believed clearly distinguish over the two applied references, in that they provide no teaching relating to such unexpected activity relating to free blood plasma concentration.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of remaining amended claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada et al '719 and Harada et al. '938 is respectfully requested.

Early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Patent Application  
Attorney Docket No. PC10901A

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Raymond D. Thompson", is written over a horizontal line.

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